

OFFICERS OF THE NAVY—TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 334.]

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

*In relation to travelling expenses of the officers of the navy.*

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JANUARY 31, 1835.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,

*January 21, 1835.*

SIR : In answer to your letter of the 16th instant, I have to observe that I cannot discover any practicable arrangement by which the allowances to officers of the navy, for travelling expenses, can be dispensed with. Such an arrangement, however, if it could be adopted, would be a great relief to this department.

Both justice and policy require that the officers of the navy should be selected from all parts of the United States. Each State should bear its proper proportion of the burden, and receive its due share of the honor of defending the country. Should no travelling expenses be allowed, those at a great distance from our naval stations would, when ordered into service, be compelled to resign, or incur expenses in many instances beyond their means of payment.

It is evident that an increase of pay to all, in lieu of travelling expenses, would operate unequally and unjustly, inasmuch as it would give too much to some, or too little to others. The only regulation which it appears to me can, with propriety, be adopted, is to limit the amount of allowance per mile so as not to exceed the extra expenses necessary to be incurred.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

M. DICKERSON.

Hon. JOHN G. WATMOUGH,

*House of Representatives.*

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